**CONNECT-ED PHASE III PLAN APPLICATION COVER SHEET**

**I**n phase III, you may choose to be either a CONNECT-ED Professional Learning Community (PLC) or a CONNECT-ED Project Team.  In either case, the aim is to focus on science and/or math and to apply the CONNECT-ED approach to learning and teaching those disciplines, that is, coherent science/math instruction through deep content knowledge, concept connection making, articulation across grade levels, and inquiry.

In our efforts to be sure we understand what type of professional work you are planning to do, please reference the definitions below to determine if you are functioning as a PLC or a Project Based Team.

**CONNECT-ED PLC**:  A CONNECT-ED PLC is a team of teachers from multiple grade levels focused on student learning in science/math and how, using the CONNECT-ED approach, to design instruction that supports student learning. PLC work focuses on deepening teacher learning about student learning.

**A CONNECT-ED Project Team**: A CONNECT-ED Project Team is a team of teachers from multiple levels engaged in a science math project (i.e., curriculum development, teacher professional development, or similar) that promotes the CONNECT-ED approach to science/math learning and has either a district-wide or school-wide impact. Project work also deepens the Team’s learning of content and impacts their teaching practice.

**PLAN GOALS**: Please keep in mind the CONNECT-ED philosophy as you write your goals.  The CONNECT-ED approach involves 3 key elements:  focus on science and math; connections made across grade levels; includes content conversation and/or investigations.

Your goals should be **SMART** which have these characteristics:

Specific: Goals should be strategic and include details (what, who, how, etc)

Measurable: Decide how you will know if you’re making progress toward a goal.

Attainable: Is the goal realistic, given the resources available, other considerations?

Results-based: What outcomes are anticipated?

Time-bound: State when you expect to accomplish the goal.

Here is an example of a general goal. “Improve student reading and math scores.”

Here is that same goal re-written as a SMART Goal. “Within the next two years, increase by fifty percent the number of 6th and 7th grade students scoring at proficient or advanced levels in reading and math. (Currently, only one-third of students score at those levels.)” (Conzemius, 2002, pp. 5-6)

**Big Ideas Learning Design (BILD)**: This is your new name for what was formerly known as Train the Trainers. Through BILD professional development, more teachers in your district can be introduced to the process of concept connection-making across grade levels and its value to their teaching and to student learning in science/math. Those in your district who attended Train the Trainers workshops in 2009, 2010, and 2011 are now known as BILD Trainers (or BILDers). They are prepared to plan and implement professional development opportunities in your district that engages teachers in the BILDing process and helps them apply it to their own instruction.

**CONNECT-ED PHASE III PLAN APPLICATION**

**Submit Draft via email to** [**TLC@rider.edu**](mailto:TLC@rider.edu)

**Due date**-refer to the CONNECT-ED Phase III Application Workshop FAQs

**Name of your school district?**

**Which type of team (PLC or Project) will you be in Phase III? (Please refer to the CONNECT-ED Phase III Plan Application Cover Sheet)**

**PART 1 TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

**You may choose the optimal number of team members for your work. Please include the following information for each team member. If you have more members than spaces below, just copy and paste some additional blanks.**

**Team Members**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Grade Level** | **School** | **School e-mail** | **School Phone** |
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**Which team members, if any, have no prior experience with CONNECT-ED?**

**Describe how you will help them learn about the CONNECT-ED approach. (For example, you might consider asking your BILD Trainers, formerly known as Train the Trainers, to help with this.)**

**PART 2 SMART GOALS:** Please ask yourselves these questions as you write your goals and strategies: Where is the learning? Where is the change? If you need some help, the CONNECT-ED Phase III Application Cover Sheet provides some details about SMART Goals. **Please list your SMART Goals for your CONNECT-ED Phase III plan below**. We do not recommend that you have more than three goals. It is okay to have less than three goals.



**Please describe in detail what you envision your team doing over the next two years of Phase III. Please provide enough description so that we can visualize the “Big Picture”. Consider including some statements such as, “In order to accomplish our goal(s), over the next two years our team will…By the end of the two years, we expect that…” Your narrative is an important part of your application process. It clearly describes your plan and should be able to be easily understood by a third party reader. We will need to be able to clearly summarize and justify your plan to our funders.**

**YOUR PLAN: Please copy the template below as many times as you need for each strategy you plan to implement to accomplish your goal. It is important that your strategies are list chronologically, so please be mindful of how you list them, so that we can see how each step connects to the bigger picture.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strategy/Activity: Write a brief description here.**  **This strategy addresses Goal #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **When do you plan to do this?** |
| **Who will be involved in implementing this strategy?** |
| **Whom will this strategy affect? In what way?** |
| **How will this step help you in reaching your goal? What is the connection between the step and the goal?** |
| **Will this cost any money? If so how much? What will the money be spent on?** |
| **Should this be assessed? If so, for what and how?** |

**PART 3 SUSTAINABILITY:** We believe the work you are doing will have a strong impact on your team and/or others. It is important to think about the future and how you can sustain your valuable work. Please think through and answer the following questions about sustainability.

**What steps can you take to help ensure your work is supported and can continue for the long term?**

**Who in your district or school ought to know about your work in order for your team to have the support it needs to proceed successfully? Please list administrators, teachers, and/or other personnel.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Why is this person a key person?** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**How will you deal with changes in team membership, if that occurs?**

**How will you deal with changes in district or school leadership, if that occurs?**

**What kind of help will you want from Rider (in addition to the PLC Grant)?**

**What steps can you take to help others learn from the CONNECT-ED approach?**

**Please indicate how your plans will capitalize on your BILD Trainers (otherwise known as Train the Trainers Program).**

**In what ways will your team and BILD trainers support one another?**

**Consider the successes and obstacles that your team has experienced in the past, how can you leverage your successes and attempt to avoid your obstacles?**

**PART 4 ASSESSMENT:** Please think about the potential *impact and imprint* of your work when answering the following questions. Be mindful of the methods and evidence you plan to gather to assess learning.

**What do you anticipate learning by implementing this plan (teacher and/or student)?**

**What do you anticipate will change as a result of your team’s work?**

**PART 5 FINAL CHECKLIST:** Often when writing a proposal there is a disconnect between what one intended to write and what actually gets communicated. Please make sure that you have provided enough detail to fully describe your intentions and make a strong case for plan. Keep this in mind…If this was your one and only opportunity to submit an application and budget and you were not allowed to make revisions, how confident would you be that your application is complete?

Some other things to consider before your submit.

1. Are your goals SMART and not a task list?
2. Have you indentified areas and opportunities to dive deep into content?
3. Have you determined how you will measure your progress, what evidence will you collect and can share?
4. Is your plan written chronologically?
5. Are your budget numbers correct?
6. Is there enough detail that a 3rd party reader could articulate back to you what your plan is?

**Finally, do not forget to attach your budget sheet when you submit your application.**